

*TOWN OF TIVERTON RHODE ISLAND  
343 HIGHLAND ROAD  
TIVERTON RHODE ISLAND 02878*

*TIVERTON HARBOR COMMISSION*

*MINUTES*

*OF REGULAR MEETING HELD JUNE 1, 2009 AT TIVERTON  
COMMUNITY CENTER, 346 JUDSON STREET, TIVERTON RI  
02878*

*In attendance, John McEwing, Chairman, David Stewart, Vice-Chairman,  
Box Dixon, Roger Winiarski, Harris Gruber, Secretary, Frank diMauro,  
Bruce Cox (arrived after start of meeting).*

*Guests present were: Colleen Stanton (Wastewater Commission, also  
identified herself as a licensed USCG captain\_ residents Steve Donoghue,  
Jay Moran and Charlie Smith. Also present, reporter Marcia ?Paulson?  
from the Newport Daily News.*

*Meeting was called to order at 1930 hours by Chairman John McEwing.*

*1 – Dave Vannier, our new Harbormaster, was introduced. Dave recounted  
his resume, which is available for review on-line on the Harbormaster's  
website, listed on the Town's website. Dave proposes that, prior to the next  
regular meeting of the Harbor Commission, he will review and address all  
ongoing and new concerns of the Harbor Commission and the Harbormaster  
and report, including on-line, intending to keep all residents of Tiverton as  
fully informed as possible about matters concerning the Tiverton waterfront  
and shoreline.*

*There are links on the Town website to both the Harbor Commission and  
Harbormaster webpages, separate from "Meetings" and "Agendas".*

*2 – MINUTES OF JUNE 4 REGULAR MEETING – One correction: John McEwing was contacted by phone regarding Harbormaster position and other Harbor Commission issues, not interviewed at the Personnel Board meeting. With correction, minutes had been previously read by each member and were accepted.*

*3 – CORRESPONDENCE -*

*A – Incoming :*

- 1 - Fogland Meeting agenda*
- 2 – David Vannier appointment as Harbormaster*
- 3 – CRMC Public Notice # 2009-04-009 re: Application for dock construction on Nannaquaket Channel*

*Discussion:*

- a – Explanation required by applicant and civil engineer*
- b – Shellfish considerations*
- c - One dock for all lots intended or one dock for each lot?*
- d – Rip-rap next to bridge? Origin of same?*
- e – More information requested on channel location, including the most recent U.S. Coast and Geodetic surveys and recent private readings of actual channel location, in order to determine whether this project complies with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers guidelines and CRMC regulations,*
- f – Information is needed on future possible applications for dock structures and possible bulkheading in this area, to assess suitability of same and also in consideration of the development of the Manchester property on the opposite shore of the channel.*

*4 – Harris Gruber presented a listing of the possible Rights of Way (preliminary), not including CRMC-designated Rights of Way, but including easements noted on Tax Assessor's maps.*

*B -Outgoing:*

*1 – Harris Gruber requested a copy of the letter to USCG MSO regarding the tire booms debris (see minutes of April and May).*

*4 - OLD BUSINESS –*

*A – Bookkeeping statements for Harbormaster operations including income and expenditure statements regarding moorings for recent years was requested.*

*B – Sakonnet River Bridge Construction Information:*

*1 – Two moorings moved? Status*

*2 - Channel buoyage changes (see Harbormaster's report on-line)*

*C – Tiverton Yacht Club “cease and desist” order; order effective June 18; now reported that all boats are already gone from the docks;*

*D – North Rip/Quality Yachts project –*

*1- Contact new owners*

*2 – Mooring changes regarding dock building?*

*3 - Swimming pool in new plans?*

*4 – Car parking: Some dinghy dock renters are parking on Riverside Drive, using moorings on the Portsmouth side of the channel.*

*E - Mooring Identification Details –*

*Discussion:*

*1 – Stickers on mooring balls are superfluous because the boat name should be sufficient; also, stickers on mooring balls are soon lost to the elements. With current mooring records on board the Harbor Patrol boat at all times and on file and on-line, good management and regulation, without stickers, should work out satisfactorily.*

*2 – Mooring weights lettered on mooring buoys: Two points were made:*

*a – Rather than showing mooring weight on the ball, the mooring list in the patrol boat will show the mooring weight;*

*b – for quick use of an empty mooring in inclement weather, instantly knowing the weight of the mooring is valuable.*

*No resolution; discussion to be continued.*

*F –Annual Inspection of Mooring Equipment –*

*Issue: How often inspected and by whom?*

*Discussion: Mooring permit holders are required to attest to current inspections, when they sign their permits each year. Harbormaster reports that, in reviewing these permits, a commercial firm, Coastal Divers is listed,*

*by the applicants, on 90% of the permit applications as having inspected the mooring equipment.*

*G – Harbor Management Plan –*

*1 - Discussion: Efficacy of putting the entire HMP on the Harbor Commission website*

*2 – John McEwing distributed copies of version 4 of the HMP, in CD form, which was submitted to CRMC in April 2008.*

*8 -APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS -*

*A - Resident Fred Sousa strongly suggested launching the dinghy docks, known as the Town Landing, for which pilings and a pierhead structure exist at the Stone Bridge abutment. Mr. Sousa stated that space rentals would be overwhelming, saying that he personally knew of 20 individuals who would rent space immediately. He also stated that it is unfortunate that a waterfront town like Tiverton has no dock for dinghies for visiting boaters to enjoy our beautiful waterfront and to patronize the businesses close to the waterfront. Mr. Sousa also remarked that it was shameful that the Stone Bridge location is cosmetically in such deplorable condition and said that a group of volunteers could make short work of cleaning up the area and keeping it that way.*

*(Mr. Sousa is the individual who was responsible for actually taking matters into his own hands and physically removing the derelict sailboat from the rocks along Main Road, after the Town had not managed to do anything about it for about six months.)*

*Harbormaster Dave Vannier stated that a DINGHY DOCK WAS URGENTLY NEEDED. He pointed out that there have been considerable funds granted in the recent past for improvement to the Stone Bridge abutment, perhaps as much as \$300,000 total in multiple grants. This raised the question for discussion as to where and how much of this grant money might still be available for facilitating the re-launch of the dinghy dock.*

*It was the opinion of both Mr. Sousa and the Harbormaster that concerns about the safety of using portions of the abutment to access the dinghy dock*

*could easily be addressed and that a valuable Town asset could quickly be returned to profitable and practical use.*

*He further stated that the Town of Tiverton had bought the abutment from the State for \$1, when it was offered, but that the Town of Portsmouth had declined the same offer for the abutment on their side of the river; as a result, the State now maintains that site.*

*Discussion followed. Chairman McEwing asked for volunteers to inspect the site and report back at the next regular meeting. Mr. Sousa, Frank diMauro and Harbormaster Vannier were appointed to do so and agreed to visit the site the next day, June 2, at 6 PM. They will report back at the next regular meeting.*

*In the discussion, it was also suggested that we contact the CRMC, if necessary, for quick approval to re-establish the docks, and so as to be prepared for a presentation and request to the Town Council.*

*B - Resident Jay Moran, of 47 Riverside Drive, who holds a permit for mooring number D-59, made an appeal with regard to the mooring holder of number D-22. Mr. Moran stated that the boat now on the mooring is not the same as last year and is about ten (10) feet longer than the previous boat. It is crowding his boat and mooring and may be unsafe. Additionally, Mr. Moran is not sure that the boat on the mooring at this time is actually owned by the permitted mooring holder. The boat in question is apparently a deep draft sailboat; there is some question as to whether there is sufficient depth of water at this location for such a vessel. Harbormaster Dave Vannier said he would investigate the situation and report on this at the next regular meeting.*

*C – Resident Charlie Smith, of 128 Riverside Drive, reported continuous complaints of random stopping of transient boaters by the Harbor Patrol in recent years.*

*He says that state agencies (?) recommend stopping every tenth vessel transiting the area, principally in order to promote and offer RI state boating information and laws, plus to enable more frequent vessel safety checks.*

*This is apparently a highly contentious requirement, and also not practical, and possibly illegal (?), as the Harbor Patrol can stop ANYBODY, ANYTIME and FOR NO REASON, stated Mr. Smith.*

*Further discussion is proposed for the next meeting, especially the RI boating laws.*

*9 – NEW BUSINESS –*

*A – Proceed to development of a full description of the Harbormaster's position and responsibilities. Dave Vannier has already made a voluminous contribution to this project.*

*B – Harris Gruber has suggested that a program of developing a volunteer corps of Town residents to assist in the many programs, activities and efforts for which the Harbor Commission is responsible would be helpful to the Commission. Chairman McEwing invited the outline of such a proposal for presentation at the next meeting.*

*C – Harris Gruber also suggested that we send letters to each pertinent Town Commission, Board and Committee, as well as Town officials, introducing ourselves and our activities and inviting their input. HG will prepare same for review as soon as possible.*

*D – Due to the closure of Town offices on Monday July 6, our next regular meeting will be held on Monday June 29<sup>th</sup>.*

*E – Regarding a separate telephone contact for the Harbor Commission, it was agreed that Chairman McEwing's cell phone number would be the contact number.*

*F – Holding Tank Pumpout Facilities*

*1 – Standish Boatyard's facility is open from 8AM to 5PM; the charge is \$5;*

*2 – The tiverton Yacht Club has a portable pumpout unit, reportedly has never been used;*

*3 – Quality Yachts/North Rip Marina (?)*

*Meeting was adjourned at approximately 2230 hours.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Harris Gruber, Secretary*